The MCC Messenger

Metropolitan Community Church of Montgomery

Spring 1995

Dear David and family at MCC Montgomery:

I had planned to write about something that I know a little about—Mother's Day and being a Mom. But instead, I find myself wanting to write on a subject that means a lot to me, but about which I know very little; intercessory prayer.

When I have found myself on the *giving* end of intercessory prayer, I have often been puzzled. it's not that I don't care about the things I am asked to pray for or that I don't enjoy time spent in prayer. But I find myself wondering what the point is. Do I think that I have a better plan than God has? Do I think I might change God's mind and convince Jesus that what I'm asking for is really a better deal? Do I *want* to change God's mind? Was God not really going to take care of these people or their problems if I didn't remember to pray for them?

But when I am on the *receiving* end of someone else's intercessory prayer, that's a different story. For instance, our pastor, Rev. Nancy Wilson, has an agreement that she makes with people in our congregation. Anyone who will agree to pray for MCC Los Angeles at least one hour per week can write that agreement down on a 3X5 card and give it to Nancy. Her agreement is to pray for that person *every morning*. What a difference that makes in my life, knowing that my pastor is praying for me every single day!

Another story of this kind of prayer affected us dramatically this past February. We had thrown a rod in our *second* engine and were having a third one put in at a huge dealership near Dallas while we waited in a motel room across the street. Friday evening an apprentice mechanic had jacked up our 16,800 pound RV on their hydraulic jacks. But in the front, he had used our *bicycle rack* for a support. This actually held until Monday morning when he was under the RV taking off the front tires in order to remove the engine. He had already removed the driver's side tire and had moved over to the passenger side, which still had the tire on it, when the bike rack gave way without warning and the coach fell onto the cement floor. The mechanic was pinned under the coach and had a huge laceration on his head, but the tire on the passenger side had kept him from being crushed. A few inches to the left and he would not have survived. We were still reeling from the repercussions of this accident that Monday afternoon when I got a call from my 22 year old daughter back in California. She had been in a car accident. She was struck so hard from the rear that it knocked the glasses off her face, the radio out of her dashboard and totaled her car. But she was uninjured except for a stiff neck for a week or so. The next day I picked up a message on our voice mail from Rev. Ed Sherriff in Sacramento. It said, "Hi, Marsha and Suzanne. No need to return this call. I just wanted to let you know that God kept me in prayer for you and your family all day yesterday. Hope everything's OK."

Did Rev. Ed change God's mind? If he hadn't been obedient and prayer, would God have protected us still? I don't know, but I think that it is clear that something beyond our reasoning is at work here. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he says that part of the reason for everyone to pray for each other is so that many people can give thanks when the prayers are answered. There are many allusions to defeating a spiritual enemy in prayer. There are many miracles reported in the Scriptures when someone prayed. I guess that the bottom line is that Jesus told us to do it. He told us to pray and not give up in the story of the persistent widow. He told us to pray for our enemies on the Sermon on the Mount. He told us to watch and pray until He returns. I don't understand it, but I *do* it. "Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of Christ may be spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you!" (2 Thess. 3 : 1)

Yours in Christ,

Marsha Stevens

BALM Ministry
1835 Newport Blvd.
Building G-182, Suite 266
Costa Mesa CA 92627

MCCM Church Information

Church Office Hours: By Appointment	Mailing Address: PO Box 603 Montgomery, AL 36101-0603
Services: 5:30pm Sundays at 5280 Vaughn Road, Montgomery	Phone: 279-7894

Vampires And Easter

George S.

I don't usually go in for scary movies. Life can be scary enough! But friends assured me that I needed to see "Interview with a Vampire".

The fact that it had Tom Cruise and Brad Pit in the lead roles was a feast for the eyes. The fact that the movie was chock full of positive homoerotic themes, was stimulating enough. But some of the theological overtones were mind boggling!

So I had to dive into the books. The second book in the series, The Vampire Lestat, was very thought provoking, as Lestat sets out trying to find answers to the questions all of us ask. Why was I made this way? Why am I different? Are there others like me? What is the reason for my life? And, is there really a God?

About mid-way in the book Lestat is captured by a group of vampires who are intent on destroying him. He's not like them. He doesn't live in the vampire ghetto under the cemetery, he doesn't wear dirty clothes, he actually likes the company of humans and he's not half crazy like the rest of them.

Though vampires are immortal, Lestat never finds any older than 400 years, and two of the oldest he has ever met rule this group of vampires in Paris. The half-crazed old queen explains what she knows and why most vampires eventually kill themselves by jumping into fire, or remaining outside past sunrise.

"As a vampire, you can't live among your prey. You have to live as we. Because if you live among humans, you will come to understand them and have compassion for them." So what's wrong with that he asks. "Because, eventually, you will be torn by what you are. It will drive you mad!"

Those words really jumped out at me. They have applications at several levels, to several things. What does that say about our relations with "straights"? With our desire to congregate in gay ghettos? About living in our "Closets".

The minute I read those lines, I heard this conversation taking place within the Trinity, as God was explaining to the Christ just what was going to happen when Christ incarnated into our world.

Yes, we (the religious establishment, God's chosen ones) did nearly drive him crazy - " Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem. How often, like a hen gathers her chickens, have I tried to gather you to me. But you are like children playing in the marketplace. I played merry songs for you and you would not dance. I played sad songs for you and you would not play funeral."

But despite our fickleness, God did come to dwell among us, to share our frailties... not just 2,000 years ago, but today as well. God's Spirit abides within all of us even now, granting the foundation of our sense of immortal worth, continually demonstrating God's love for us, so that our faith may increase.

As we move toward Easter, let us look with new eyes upon the significance of the Incarnation for the world back then, and the significance of the Incarnation in us when we were born. For the child will be called "Emmanuel", meaning God with us!

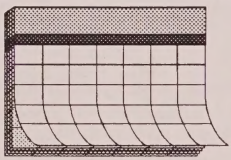
LATE, But Not Forgotten!

Finally! I'm sure that's is the opinion of many of you. Well, I have to admit that's my feeling too. Between schedule conflicts, not receiving articles on time (some not at all), and District Conference preparation; there hasn't been much time for the Messenger.

This issue has finally pulled together, it's actually now the March/April/May/June issue. Rather than try to mess with putting one issue out right after another, we're going to publish this one to catch us up to schedule. Besides, it's almost time to start working on the next issue (Heaven help me!). It should be ready in about a month.

Already, articles are coming in for the next issue, and between meetings and school this issue has been delayed even longer. Hopefully, we'll get past this period and the Messenger will be back on a more regular schedule soon.

Please provide us with your "SPECIAL" Dates



We need to know the special days in your life that you want to have your church family help you to celebrate and commemorate. Please be sure to provide birthdays and anniversaries.

Give this information to the MCC Messenger Editors, David H. or Tim M., or Jerry T., the chair of our activity committee.

Mailing List and Membership List Update

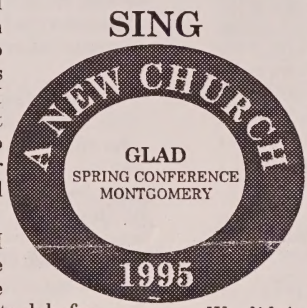
We are currently undergoing on update on our church mailing list and updating our records on our members and friends.

Lists will soon be available at church for you to review and make corrections to. Information needed from most everyone will include your birthday and the date you joined the church...

Sing A New Church, A Chorus Of Success
1995 GLAD Spring Conference

Jerry T.

I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone in our MCC Family know what a spectacularly, wonderful time I had planning and creating what I thought was one of the most spirit-filled weekends of my life. I realized it would not be an easy task for our congregation to work together. Because of the divisiveness in our church and the resignation of our pastor, much less getting people to get along and work together; how in the world could 30 people put together a district conference. Through much soul searching and lots and lots of prayer, I began my work of planning.

Our church was basically in charge of five different areas: Registration, The Hospitality Suite, The Informational Packets, Extra Activities, and Acolytes and Ushers for the worship services. It was important to me to let our congregation at MCCM be in on all donations of time, items, and ideas as much as possible. I felt that with such a small congregation, we needed to get as much help from our community as possible; with my business connections I thought this would be a cinch. I was not surprised our community came out to help in the best ways they could. As our donation list shows, we had help in all areas.

I decided to put my friend and MCCM board member, Ann W. in charge of the Hospitality Suite. She made the mistake of telling me she had tackled this sort of task before. I'm sure Ann will not be so inviting next time. My idea was to have a menu of finger foods. We were not trying to feed everyone a meal, but make sure there were always snacks for everyone all weekend. Our menu included sandwiches, chips, dips, meat trays, vegetable trays, fruit, and desserts. This menu found 'eats' for everyone, including vegetarians, diabetics, and others with special food requirements. My next step was to determine how much food to prepare. In my business we work with many caterers. We devised a formula to multiply the amount of people by the number of days we would have to feed them. Our calculations came to around 600 people!

Our food lasted all weekend and on Sunday we were lauded by Rev. Elder Darlene Garner for this undertaking. This meant a lot to me. The room in the hall was ideal for this activity since it had two entrances, which helped keep a steady flow of people. Our tables were set with white tablecloths, flowers, serving trays, serving spoons, and eating utensils. Ann had a schedule set up where there were at least four of our members in the room at all times to services the tables and greet all of our guests. Thank you Ann. I would also like to recognize "Frizz" G. for her faithful work in this area. I had been told that at other conferences, the food was great, but was not plentiful. This was our greatest success, because (to quote Rev. Elder Garner) we "fed the folks for days."

My next task was our informational packets to all delegates of the conference. The packets itself would need to let our visiting brothers and sisters know about our church, the duties of the host church, our extra activities, and historical information about Alabama, Montgomery, and the surrounding area. I also wanted it to be a keepsake of a memorable conference. I sought out and received other packets from past conferences. "Blah!" Let's perk this up. First, I decided to change the style of the outside envelopes to include the state and an inviting greeting from our church. Our inside information consisted of rainbow colored pages specifying the times and locations of activities, the Hospitality Suite and Marketplace hours, and our donation sheet. It also included articles of historical interest in our city. I decided to have a packet party on Thursday night before the conference and nearly 20 people of the congregation showed up to help. Later, we had hors d'oeuvres to celebrate our six months of planning and preparation. Many of our people and friends in our community contributed to this project, but my special thanks goes to David H. for his particularly wonderful work with the Graphic Arts on all our printed materials.

We didn't forget our children in the church who might be attending the conference. Their packets included Bible coloring books, Play-Dough, and toys. A great idea for little ones who are so often left out.

Our extra activities were headed by board member, Cindy W. This included a raffle of three items: Original art work by East Art; an original painting by Joe Law; and an afghan by Mina Simmons. On Saturday afternoon, for the children, we had child care. This was a five hour session for the children's' parents to attend workshops. Their afternoon included a pizza party, Disney movies, and games galore. Saturday night included a dance where we drew for our raffle items, and added something new at this conference, a professional photographer. I feel it is often awkward for us to go to a photographer and sit for them. So, we brought in the photographer offering all delegates the opportunity to have a photograph made with that special someone(s) in their life. We also had an art exhibition all weekend long by our resident artist, Joe Law. My special thanks to Cindy W., Larry E., Russ C., and Mina S.

We also had a Market Place to buy mementos to remember the conference by. Our Market Place and the raffle netted over $1200 for the church. Praise God! We had fresh flowers and small items available for sale in the Market Place. Our T-Shirts in the

Continues on next page.

Market Place sold well and the shirts were a success. Thanks to our T-Shirt Coordinator, Dean M.

The registration table was a very important part of the conference, because we would be meeting and greeting all our delegates, passing out our host church packets and the G.L.A.D. packet. Many thanks to all who staffed this area making sure that everything went smoothly.

The District had notified us that we would need to furnish acolytes for the first service, and ushers for all services throughout the weekend. Simon B. and Nancy M. were perfect for coordinating this, since they have been a part of our church forever. (Oh, I'm sorry to give away your ages, but shall we say it has been a LONG time.) This of course, went without a hitch, and we were praised for our professionalism by the attending clergy.

My work started in December of 1994 and culminated in a total of over 200 hours of work.

My job would not be complete without thanking Rev. Jay Neely, our District Coordinator, and his faithful secretary, Beverly. Since I had not attended a conference before, I was a little in the dark about what was to take place. Rev. Neely and Beverly were always there for me and for that I am eternally grateful. I would also like to thank Wanda F. of Raleigh, NC, for sending me her booklet on District Conference preparation. Thanks to the District Committee and the Credentials Committee who I enjoyed all week and feel I made friends for life.

I would also like to thank the staff at The Madison Hotel, especially Ms. Pam P. for making the best of what they had to offer.

There are many that I have not mentioned by name, but you know who you are, and know that I am very grateful to all our congregation who put there best foot forward to support MCCM and serve the Lord.

In closing, the Lord teaches us that there is nothing we cannot accomplish if we work together. There were many doubts in our district and our church congregation that this conference would happen, much less be a success. The enthusiasm in our church for this conference to go forward was a pleasant and fulfilling surprise for everyone. I have received many cards and letters thanking me and the church for what they felt was a very spirit-filled and enjoyable conference. It is with this spirit we should go forward for our Lord, our church, and our community.

This and other MCCM activities should be ministries to our community as well as to our congregation. I feel we have been blessed with a great spirit in our church. It is with great pleasure that I accept your thanks for chairing such a wonderful event, and let you know that I am always there if you need me. Now, let's go forward with the Lord's ministry and our requirements of winning souls.

Thanks Again,

Jerry

For Those Interested In Keeping Our History Alive:

The church received the following letter. It is included here for your information.

March 8, 1995

I am writing a book about gay life in postwar America to be published by Henry Holt & Co. in 1997. Though the book deals in part with the rise of the gay political movement, it is also concerned with the social and cultural world of gay men during the last several decades—and how gay men were perceived by different elements of American society in earlier times and how we came to view ourselves differently over the years. So I have been trying to learn as much as possible about gay social and professional life—bars, clubs, networks of friends and gay colleagues, relevant stories about family, school, religion, the law, or forging of gay relationships—in the 1940s, '50s, and early '60s, particularly in areas other than New York City and San Francisco.

I am writing now to ask if anyone involved with the Church know of any individuals from your area who might be inclined to share their memories about gay life from that earlier time. Previous interviews have been conducted in a variety of ways: by phone or in-person, taped or not, anonymous or otherwise—whatever was agreeable to the person being interviewed. (The book is a narrative history, rather than a collection of interviews, but the interviews will contribute a great deal to the historical background of the work as a whole.)

I should also say that the interviews do not even have to be personal: I am interested in knowing the basic facts of a given area (for example, what bars existed in what towns at what date, etc.) and would like to talk with someone who has that information.

Any suggestions or research "leads" of any kind will be <u>much</u> appreciated. Though a large part of my work is based in libraries and gay archives, the better and richer part of the experience has been in talking to the individuals I've been put in touch with.

Sincerely,

John Loughery

Anyone interested can contact John Loughery at 61-40 Saunders St. B21, Rego Park NY 11374, (718) 672-7658

A New Church Emblem

We are looking for talented people!

We are looking for people with artistic talent or ideas to support us in designing a new church emblem for MCC Montgomery.

Don't fret you wonderful people who know how to sew, we'll need your support later in making a new church banner.

We are not doing away with the old, we are adding to our history and making a new statement in leading the church into the future.

" Quotation Marks "

Tim M.

When Congressman Newt Gingrich was a graduate student at Tulane University, I baptized him by immersion into the membership of the St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church. Perhaps I didn't hold him under long enough.

(The Rev.) G. Avery Lee
New Orleans

Time Magazine Dec. 5, 1994

"So many things have to be right in a relationship these days. Everybody wants a custom fit in an off-the-rack world."

Collin Raye

Ministry News

The MCCM Food Pantry Is Growing and Expanding

Our Food Pantry is changing. It will be merging with our AIDS/Benevolent Fund. Kathy C. is the Food Pantry Director. Kathy together with Binna M., liaison for the AIDS/Benevolent Fund, and Jerry T. will be building procedures and guidelines for this important ministry within our church. We want to take this ministry and make it available to those in the church AND those in our community.

Please pick up a little extra, (non-perishable items please) the next time you go to the store, and bring it to Kathy at church. The food pantry will also accept other essential items, (toilet tissue, Ensure, etc.) that could be used to help someone through troubled times or crisis.

If you know of a person needing assistance from this ministry, please contact the church office, or one of those on the committee.

Keeping the Lines Open

Dean M.

An MCC Montgomery phone tree has been developed and is on its way to you if it hasn't already gotten there by now. This comes about so we can stay in touch, notify members of an important event or change of plans, make a prayer request, or pass along some important bit of information.

I tried very diligently to keep the phone tree simple. The first slot is designated "primary caller". This allows any one among us to initiate the tree's activation. You will notice too that the first six to be called are your board members. I also was able to limit each person's number of calls to two (with one exception) and insure that no one had to make more than one long distance call. The only exception there would be when someone down the tree initiates and the cycle returns to them. That would necessitate his/her having to call the usual persons below them on the tree.

Please think CONFIDENTIALITY. We are supplying this tree to church members only. In the event a new pastor or music director is engaged they surely will be included. Don't pass along someone's number without their prior consent. We are not all at a point in societal evolution where we can be as free and open as we wish.

Last and least of all, please try not to be offended if only one person in your household is listed. This was a conscious attempt on my part to be brief and thorough. The church will attempt to update the tree on a regular basis. If your number changes let the church clerk or one of the board and the person ahead of you on the tree know. The correction should be on the next issue.

Don't forget! Reach out and touch-tone someone today!

Dean

Member Flash!

We've had no new members join the church, but we have had new friends join us.

Sabrina	Pam
Sheila	Cheryl
Bev	Terrell
H. B.	Clark
Catherine	

Upcoming Activities

Here's a quick look at what is going on in YOUR church:

July 15

MCC Bowling Night at Bama Lanes, 9:00pm

July 16

Open Board Meeting following Sunday service.

July 23 - 30

U.F.M.C.C. General Conference, Atlanta Ga.

July 21

MCCM Night Out at McGehee Rd Pizza Hut. Meet us at 7:00PM with a big appetite and ready to have fun.

Every Month

MCCM Night Out. Locations change every month. We meet at 7:00PM. Be sure to come and join us.

August

MCCM Camping Trip. Exact location and date is still to be determined, be sure to keep your eyes open for the announcement.

October

Bonfire and evening of fun. More details to come.

November

G.L.A.D. Fall Conference. Ashville, NC. If you can, make plans to attend. Remember how great Spring Conference was here. Even better reason to go, we won't be running this one.

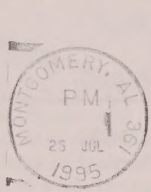
Be sure to get your Monthly Activity Calendar

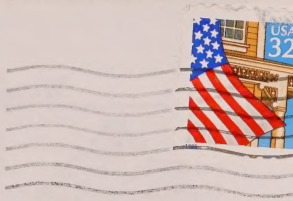
Available by the third week every month.

Upcoming MCC Messenger Schedule

Issue	Article Deadline
July/August	19 July
September/October	17 Sept..
November/December	13 Nov.
January/February	17 Jan

PO BOX 603
Montgomery, AL 36101-0603





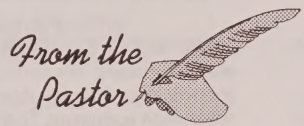
Covenant M.C.C.
5117 1st Avenue North
Birmingham AL 35212

The MCC Messenger

Metropolitan Community Church of Montgomery

Rev. Andy Knight, Pastor

July / August 1995



On July 9, 1995 the congregation of Metropolitan Community Church of Montgomery issued a call to me to be pastor. My accepting this call was a momentous occasion for myself and the church. Since that special meeting I have experienced a keen sense of excitement about the church. So many of you have been so affirming of the call and the ministry upon which we have all embarked. I want to express to all of you my appreciation for the support and prayers you have already given.

There are so many things that I want to say to you. However, in an article such as this, the limitations of space won't allow that. So let me share with you some highlights, in particular my vision for the church.

Like you, I have been so aware of the need of a vital church in Montgomery where folks can experience unconditional love and acceptance. So often our community is confronted with the attitudes of prejudice, fear and outright rejection. So many drift through life, from one experience to another, looking for that special place where they feel that they belong. All of us have found a profound need to belong. It is a basic human need that, if not found, buffets us here and there. So many find themselves in the cold grip of loneliness and alienation because there seems to be no place where they can feel "at home."

I want MCCM to be that special place. God has called us to be Christ's body in the Montgomery community. In Christ's body, all are welcomed and all have a place where we can feel "at home." I want MCCM to be a sanctuary where all can find healing from the onslaught of hurt and pain so commonplace in our community. I want MCCM to be a stronghold, a model of the love of Christ that liberates us from the notions that society thrusts upon us that redemption is not within our reach. I want MCCM to be that special place where the community can experience joy, peace, and FUN. Yes, fun! God's people should have the most fun of all because we have reason to celebrate. I want our worship services to be true celebrations of the grace and mercy of God.

I've gone on about what I want MCCM to be. What about you? What is your vision for the church? That is an important question because without a shared vision by pastor and congregation we are not likely to see the church become these things. Together, as pastor and people, MCCM can grow to soaring heights. It will only happen as we look beyond ourselves and truly be the Body of Christ to the community. Will you share this vision with me?

There is a song that we all love to sing at MCCM. The title of this song is "The Family of God." The words sum up what I have attempted to say in this article. It sums up what the Body of Christ is really all about. The words are these:

You will notice we say 'brother and sister' 'round here
It's because we're a family and these folks are so near;
When one has a heartache we all share the tears,
And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear.

From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King
No longer an outcast, a new song I sing;
From rags unto riches, from weak to the strong,
I'm not worthy to be here, but,
PRAISE GOD, I BELONG!

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm a part of the family, the family of God.

Shalom!

Andy

We Have A New Pastor

On July 9, 1995 MCC Montgomery held a special called congregational meeting with the purpose of calling a covenant pastor, Andy Knight. Andy was elected and accepted to be our pastor.

We have a vision and together are making plans for our church.

Come help Andy, and help us to grow and move forward in God's will to make MCC Montgomery a voice for our community in Montgomery, Alabama.

MCCM Church Information

Church Office Hours: By Appointment	Mailing Address: PO Box 603 Montgomery, AL 36101-0603
Services: 5:30pm Sundays at 5280 Vaughn Road, Montgomery	Phone: 279-7894

"... God would strike me purple..."

Lavender Jane

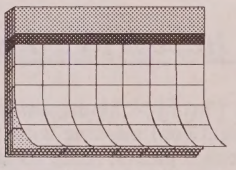
Can you remember the first time you came to MCC? Most of us can not forget it. I was scared. Terror dwelled in my heart. I was almost sure God would strike me purple. Since I know many people in Montgomery, I was sure everyone I know would know in minutes upon my entering the church that I was a lesbian. I envisioned being thrown off of this committee, and that board; but worse my livelihood would be threatened and worse still there would be fights with my family.

None of this happened. Although for weeks I did look in the mirror every morning to be sure I was not purple.

I came to MCC seeking friendship, companionship and camaraderie with those of like minds. I found much more. During the first service I cried; at the second service I cried, and upon my third visit I cried. I thought that the tears would never end. And now sometimes I cry. (Privately, of course.) Through all these tears I came to understand why I had not felt at home in church for years. I knew that I have come home. I came to understand it takes a special kind of courage to be a woman who loves women. I came to love and appreciate those women and men around me of MCC, and in return it brought me closer to my Lord.

Thanks be to God for Troy Perry and those early leaders of MCC who, eight months before Stonewall had the courage, the foresight, and the faith to "Sing A New Church."

Please provide us with your "SPECIAL" Dates



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Give this information to the MCC Messenger Editors, David H. or Tim M., or Jerry T., the chair of our activity committee.

Building Fund Status

December 31, 1994
$4848.23

April 31, 1995
$5547.24

June 30, 1995
$5724.34

MCCM Night Out

Please remember our monthly Night Out. It is a way to participate with your church family in a casual setting. Also, bring friends along; many times people who may not come to church with you would come to an informal get-together like our dinners out.

Here's a little about our past nights out:

February 25th

We met at SUNDOWN EAST on Atlanta Highway for dinner. We had a great turn out with 23 folks joining together for dinner. We enjoyed good food with good company. It was good to see some friends we haven't seen lately. Thanks to everyone who reached out and phoned friends to encourage them to join us. I believe that a good time was had by all. Looking forward to another dinner with our 'family' of friends soon.

March 17th

We met at HICKORY HOUSE CAFE for our MCCM Night Out, but this night had another reason. This was our farewell to Pastor Bev Stephenson. Everyone who went had to admit it was definitely a dining experience ...

As the evening drew to a close, we presented Bev with her farewell gift, the element jar and serving tray, the pieces to complete her communion set.

Overall, it was a pleasant evening with friendly sentiments expressed all around.

June 23rd

We met at the FANTAIL Restaurant in Millbrook for dinner. The group to join us was small this night, but we had a very enjoyable evening with more food than any of us needed to eat. Even though the crowd this night looked like couple's night, everyone is always welcome and invited to join us.

MCCM Night Out is a monthly activity please make plans to attend to support your church activities, and enjoy good food and fellowship with your brothers and sisters from church.

July 21st

We met at the McGehee Road Pizza Hut in Montgomery. It was a night of surprises, we had one of the most lively crowds yet, and kept having to ask the restaurant for more tables.

Have you been joining us for Night Out?

Why not?

Why should you?

Good times with good friends sharing good food.

A place to join with your church family and other friends. Bring friends that might not feel comfortable going to church, and let them meet your church family in a relaxed setting of informal fun.

Celebrate the Vision

A Weekend of Spiritual Renewal

We at MCC Montgomery are proud of what we're planning for our homecoming weekend, August 25th, 26th, and 27thth.

Our theme **"Celebrate the Vision"** reflects the excitement we are experiencing in the Montgomery church.

The weekend will celebrate the installation of our new covenant pastor, Andy Knight; the organization of our choir by Ron F.; the announcement of our own music evangelist, Pam Thompson; the increasing participation of members in our monthly activities; and the Lord blessing us every week with new visitors in our church. "Celebrate the Vision" also initiates a new start to our spiritual growth and envisioning our goals for the future.

Our weekend will kick off Friday night, the 25th of August. Starting at 7 p.m. We will have a garden party at Jerry T.'s house. Just a nice break for our guests and our members to start an exciting weekend. All however are invited, call the church or Jerry T. for information.

All other activities will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church building, 5280 Vaughn Rd. (Where we hold Sunday services weekly.)

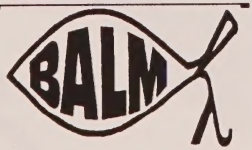
Starting Saturday we will offer a workshop in the early afternoon. The topic of the workshop and the evening speaker will be announced at a later time.

After a break we will offer a great Spaghetti Dinner, open to all. Tickets are $3 and dinner will consist of spaghetti, bread, and salad. We are hoping to sell at least 300 tickets.

After a short break between our dinner, we will then offer what I feel to be one of the greatest voices in our church fellowship today, Ms. Marsha Stevens. Marsha will be appearing, testifying, and, of course, filling our hearts with beautiful song. After we've enjoyed Marsha's ministry, we will have our evening worship service.

Marsha Stevens in Concert at MCCM

Marsha will be be ministering in word and music from 7 - 8:30 p.m., Saturday, August 26th.



Don't miss it, it promises to be a great day and night.

Sunday afternoon from 4 - 5 p.m., we will gather together at the church for a concert featuring our own Music Evangelist, Pam Thompson.

Then, we will have our regular Sunday evening service at the Unitarian Church building at 5:30 p.m., during which we will have a Rite of Blessing to dedicate our new pastor, our new clergy trainee, and our music evangelist. Please don't miss this powerful close to our celebration weekend.

It is very important we spread our joy of this blessed time with our fellow churches. We hope you will join us for this weekend and share our excitement. "Celebrate the Vision" of this blessed homecoming will promise to be a renewal that our church has never seen before. Let us know if you need some place to stay. There will be some families in our church that can house a few people. For more information, please call the church phone and leave a message; or contact our activity committee chairperson, Jerry T. at 1-800-239-3053 or 1-334-361-9333 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Monday - Saturday).

August Activities at MCCM and Around Montgomery

August 23: Turnabout Night at Ho Jons

A benefit for MCC Montgomery. Join us at 9:00 p.m. for a fun night of Camp Drag and frolic at Ho Jons, 215 N. Court St. We'll be hosting Ho Jon's annual Turnabout Night. This year however, Gayla D. has offered to let this night benefit the local church. Please "turn out" for this benefit to support our local church and offer our appreciation to Gayla and all of the Ho Jons employees. For more information on the show, or if you are interested in participating in the show, contact Jerry T.

August 12: Bowling Night

Bama Lanes, 9 p.m. Saturday night.

August 19: MCCM Day At The Lake

Join us Saturday, August 19th from 2 p.m. until ? at Lake Jordan, for a time of celebration. We will be having a baptism and a cook out. This is replacing this months Night Out.

For more information on activities with MCCM, contact Jerry T. at 361-9333 or Tammy S. at 281-1207.

"Bare Feet Welcome"

Andy K.

I was in a Florida city several years ago during the heat of Summer. As I strolled along one of the shopping areas, I noticed a sign on the front of one of the boutiques that said, "No admission to people with bare feet." I found out that the merchant had placed this sign to keep the swarms of beach combers from tracking up his store. As I made my way to other shops I came across a local sandal maker who had a sign in front that read, "Bare Feet Welcome!" It was obvious that the owner of this store loved bare feet. Every pair of bare feet represented not a problem but a possibility, an opportunity, a potential sale. This was the one place in that little Florida town with a place for the ones no one else wanted!

Did you know that we, as the Church, are constantly putting up invisible signs. Newcomers, outsiders, members on the edge of the church, may not see the signs at first. The signs, however, eventually become visible. They say, "People with problems not really wanted" or "You just try to get into this church!" Sometimes the signs say, "You are at home here" or "This place is filled with friends who just haven't met each other yet" or "People with problems welcome here."

What kind of signals are we as MCC Montgomery sending out to the community? There are subtle messages that are constantly going out. You will remember with me that 93 percent of our communication is non-verbal. Only 7 percent of our communication is in words. 38 percent is in tone of voice, 55 percent is in body language. The words may be correct, they may be Biblically correct, theologically orthodox; but if the tone and body language communicate indifference, or apathy, or hostility to the world, the words just don't ring true. What is needed is a congruent, consistent message that communicates the attitude of Jesus.

My prayer for myself, and our church, is that, in all that we do, we communicate the love of Jesus Christ that welcomes all, even those with "bare feet," into the family. Because it is in the family that unconditional love and acceptance brings healing and wholeness.

Shalom!

Andy

Treasury Notes

Tithes and Stewardship

Ann W.

Bring the tithes into the storehouse, all of them; let there be food in my house. Put me to the proof, says the Lord of Hosts, and see if I do not open windows in the sky and pour a blessing on you as long as there is a need.
Malachi 3:10

Tithe 1. a tenth part of something (time, spiritual gifts, or money) paid as a voluntary contribution for religious purposes especially for the support of a religious establishment. *Webster's Ninth New collegiate Dictionary*

Stewardship 1. the individual's responsibility for sharing systematically and proportionately their time, talent, and material possessions in the service of God for the benefit of all. *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*

Tithing and stewardship do not only involve money as many think. God requests that all believers tithe all of their blessings. God's works can not be accomplished without the dedication of one's time. It takes time to coordinate the church's activities, tend to the church's business matters, prepare the sermons, visiting newcomers to the community, or even cooking for the potlucks. Everyone has the same amount of time in each day to accomplish what needs to be done. The question is, "Where are your priorities?"

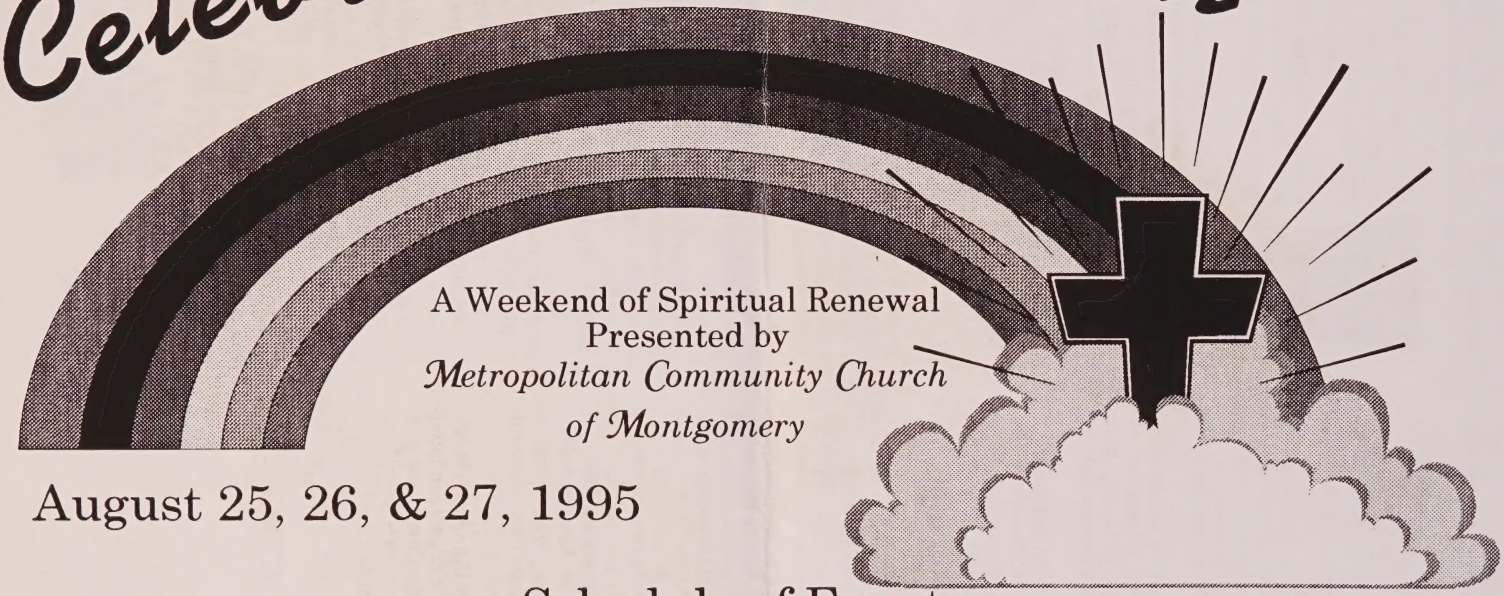
It is also asked of us to tithe our talents or spiritual gifts. Everyone's talents are different and have been given to us indiscriminately. It is up to us to use them or possibly lose them.

Some have the gift of making people feel comfortable and welcome when they come into the church, others have the gift of being able to speak in front of people, while some have the talent of organization. Whatever our talents are, they are blessings from God, and it is up to us to recognize and use them for God's glory.

Another aspect of stewardship involves the tithing of our material blessings. We are rewarded many times over when we do tithe.

As a personal testimony, I have tithed for most of my life. At times when I have written my tithe check on Sunday, I wonder how I'll make it to payday the next week, but I've never had to do without. I have faith that God will take care of my needs. And God has sent me many blessings. Tithing and stewardship are responsibilities we must accept.

Celebrate the Vision



A Weekend of Spiritual Renewal
Presented by
Metropolitan Community Church
of Montgomery

August 25, 26, & 27, 1995

Schedule of Events:

(Unless otherwise noted all activities are at the church building, 5280 Vaughn Rd.)

Friday
August 25th

Garden Party
7:00 p.m.
at Jerry T.'s

Saturday
August 26th

Workshop
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner
Tickets: $3
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Marsha Stevens
in concert
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Worship Service
8:30 p.m.

Sunday
August 27th

Pam Th., MCCM Music Evangelist
in Concert
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service
5:30 p.m.

For more information contact MCC Montgomery at (334) 279-7894.

A New Church Emblem

We are looking for talented people!

We are looking for people with artistic talent or ideas to support us in designing a new church emblem for MCC Montgomery.

Don't fret you wonderful people who know how to sew, we'll need your support later in making a new church banner.

We are not doing away with the old, we are adding to our history and making a new statement in leading the church into the future.

Ministry News

The MCCM Food Pantry Is Growing and Expanding

Our Food Pantry is changing. It will be merging with our AIDS/Benevolent Fund. Kathy C. is the Food Pantry Director. Kathy together with Jerry T., and whoever replaces Binna M. as the liaison for the AIDS/Benevolent Fund will be building procedures and guidelines for this important ministry within our church. We want to take this ministry and make it available to those in the church AND those in our community.

Please pick up a little extra, (non-perishable items please) the next time you go to the store, and bring it to Kathy at church. The food pantry will also accept other essential items, (toilet tissue, Ensure, etc.) that could be used to help someone through troubled times or crisis.

If you know of a person needing assistance from this ministry, please contact the church office, or one of those on the committee.

Our Benevolent Fund is currently at $631.49.

NEEDED

A liaison for the MCCM AIDS ministry is needed as Binna M. moves out of our community, but not out of our hearts. Anyone interested, or any suggestions of people who could help in this capacity, please see the Pastor.

Happy Birthday to the following family in our church:

August 12
Justin M.
August 15
Amber M.

August 17
Tammy S.
August 31
David H.

just listen to me

Pamela Th.

Sometimes my thoughts swell up in my head.
That is when i need you to... just listen.
Sometimes i need to bounce my thoughts
off you to make sure i am still sane after a day...
Most of all... i just need you... to listen.

There are evenings when i stay up late listening...
to the rain, the wind, the trees breathe.
There are times i think of life and what of it...
can you really hear a fish breathe...
if you are not underwater with him.

Sometimes it feels like riding on the wind...
out past the milky way...
Sometimes i feel as if i can feel it...
life, protoplasma pumping through nature's veins.

Sometimes, i just want to share it...
the thought, the inkling...
What if, what if...
you... i... maybe we just listen.

Mailing List and Membership List Update

We are currently undergoing on update of our church mailing list and updating our records on our members and friends.

Lists will soon be available at church for you to review and make corrections to. Information needed from most everyone will include your birthday and the date you joined the church...

Member Flash!

We've had no new members join the church, but we have had new friends join us.

Alan & Jerome	Ken
Maribel & Janet	Joe
Roger	Rick
Lisa	Laura
Angel	Sharon
Gary	Kimberly

MCCM Ministry Contacts

Pastor: Andy K.
Clergy in Training: Ron F.
Musical Evangelist: Pam Th.
Activity Committee Chair: Jerry T.

MCC Messenger Staff
Publishing Editor: David H.
Contributing Editor: Tim M.

Upcoming Activities

Here's a quick look at what is going on in YOUR church:

Every Month

MCCM Night Out. Locations change every month. We meet at 7:00PM. Be sure to come and join us.

August: See article on page 3.

Labor Day Weekend

Viuex Carre Metropolitan Community Church 1128 St. Roche Ave. New Orleans LA 70117 (504) 945-5390

Presents Chris Glaser for the VCMCC "Retreat De Luziane" with Coming Home to Christian Spirituality and Resting in our Faith.

3 days / 7 meals $40 (September 1 - 4, 1995)

September 9:

MCCM Bowling Night. Bama Lanes, 9 p.m.

September 16:

MCCM Night Out, 7 p.m., Conestoga Steakhouse.

MCCM Camping Trip. (Sept. or Oct.)

Exact location and date is still to be determined, be sure to keep your eyes open for the announcement.

October

Bonfire and evening of fun. More details to come.

November

G.L.A.D. Fall Conference. Ashville, NC. If you can, make plans to attend. Remember how great Spring Conference was here. Even better reason to go, we won't be running this one.

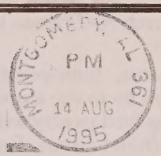
Be sure to get your Monthly Activity Calendar

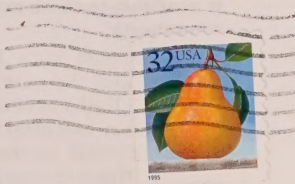
Available by the third week every month.

Upcoming MCC Messenger Schedule

Issue	Article Deadline
September/October	17 Sept.
November/December	13 Nov.
January/February	17 Jan.

PO BOX 603
Montgomery, AL 36101-0603





Covenant MCC
5117 1st Avenue North
Birmingham AL 35212

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING--ATLANTA, GA.

MARCH 4, 1995

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rev. Jay Neely, Cassi Wylie, Rev. Reid Christensen, Wanda Floyd, Sharon Lindenbaum, Dennis Luft.

OPENING PRAYER

COMMITTEE SHARING

ITEM: DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Verbal report from Jay Neely. We now have 7 churches with 100 or more members. There are several churches with between 60 and 70 members. All churches are growing. Tuscaloosa, new Parish Extension from Birmingham, had over 40 in attendance on a recent Sunday.

ITEM: TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Dennis Luft. District is doing well financially.

ITEM: CHURCH STATUS REVIEWS: Packets have been sent by the Clerk. The Charter Review packets had to be revised since we have not completed the 5 year cycle until this time.

ITEM: COMMISSION/NEW WORK, SPECIAL MINISTRY

FLOYD	NEELY	WYLIE
Family of God	Myrtle Beach	Augusta
Montgomery	Nashville	Mobile
Chattanooga	Wilmington	Asheville
Hickory		Gulfcoast

LINDENBAUM	CHRISTENSEN
High Country	Tri Cities
Columbia	Coastal Georgia
Covenant	Winston-Salem
Jackson	Greenville
Tuscaloosa	

SPECIAL MINISTRY: WYLIE
Glad Rural Outreach

CHARTER CHURCH ASSIGNMENTS:

WYLIE	LINDENBAUM	FLOYD
Charleston	First MCC	Christ Covenant
Greensboro	Charlotte	Knoxville

CHRISTENSEN	NEELY
Raleigh	New Life
Huntsville	All Saints

Dennis Luft will review the Financial elements of ALL Reports.

ITEM: SAMARITAN SCHOLARSHIP: We have only received one application so far. The deadline is March 15, 1995.

ITEM: ALL SAINTS MCC: Rev'd. Don Clarke is serving as Interim Pastor.

ITEM: MCC MONTGOMERY: Rev. Bev Stephenson has resigned from the church.

ITEM: COLUMBIA MCC: Sharon recently visited the church. Things are going well and the church is growing.

ITEM: FAMILY OF GOD MCC: Rev. Liz Leech has resigned.

ITEM: CHATTANOOGA: Rev. Polly Ireland has resigned as Pastor.

ITEM: HUNTSVILLE: Discussed the transition to new Pastor Rev. Marianne McPherson.

ITEM: HATTIESBURG: We have closed the church there as they were unable to continue ministry.

ITEM: GROW: Report was sent by Rev. Bob Galloway. Reid moved to forward Bob $200 to replace out of pocket money for GROW. Second by Wanda. Bob is to pay himself back and use the rest to open an account. This will be a two signature account. Cassi is the liaison. Funds will come from New Works. Passed unanimously.

ITEM: MEMPHIS, TN: Presently holding informal meetings. Space in the Gay Lesbian Center is available for 6 months at no cost.

ITEM: St. Simons: Jay went to Brunswick, GA. last week. There 20 people there for an informational meeting.

ITEM: GLAD TASK FORCE ON DEVELOPMENT: Pastor Mary Moore and Dennis Luft were appointed as Chairs of this committee. Appointments moved by Sharon. Second by Wanda. Passed. One abstained. Several names were brought forward to work on the Task Force. Committee agreed that the DC will make Task Force appts.

ITEM: RESOLUTION ABOUT RECONSIDERING GENERAL CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA SUBMITTED BY MCC CHRIST COVENANT: RE: Sidney: Motion by Dennis that the District Committee present this resolution with our support. Second by Reid. Passed unanimously.

ITEM: SUMMARY SURVEY FROM WILMINGTON CONFERENCE: We received only a few of these back. Surveys indicated positive attitudes about conference. Cassi and Wanda will work on the next survey.

ITEM: ST. MARY'S MCC: Late District and Fellowship tithe plan proposal was considered. Reid moved and Dennis seconded that Dennis be empowered to work out details and approve final wording. One abstained.

ITEM: DISTRICT CONFERENCE:
MONTGOMERY: Things are going well. Committee Members will have the same work assignments as usual. An advanced of $400 money has been requested for Hospitality Suite.

ASHEVILLE: Plans are in place and we are continuing work on this conference.

NASHVILLE: We have not heard from Nashville concerning conference information. Jay will work on this.

ITEM: ETFSS: Jay went to California in January while ETFSS met. Proposals will be given to the Elders and they will decide what will be brought forward to the General Council.

ITEM: NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: More involvement from the N.C. churches is needed.

ITEM: GLAD/SAMARITAN: We are still seeking a new Facilitator. John Moore is continuing to work with us at this time.

ITEM: PROGRAM BUDGETS: We have received the following from :

PROGRAM	CARRY OUT	ALLOCATION
FFO	1,222.00	
COL	120.00	1,350.00
DPOC	73.00	1,130.00
Wom. Sec.	242.00	1,160.00

Moved by Dennis. Second by Sharon. Passed unanimously. Dennis will notify Programs.

ITEM: PC FOR THE DISTRICT: Discussion only. We will be looking into this matter. A PC is needed for District use. We will investigate various types of PCs and available programs. This will be discussed again at a later date.

ITEM: MAY DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING: Committee will meet on Thursday, May 4, 1995 at 9:00 am.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sharon Lindenbaum
Clerk of the District

GULF LOWER ATLANTIC DISTRICT
CONFERENCE XX

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1995 Montgomery, AL

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

INVOCATION Mr. Steve Parker, Covenant MCC

CALL OF THE ROLL Lay & Clergy Delegates, District Committee,
Acknowledgment of Observers & Guests

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

✓1. APPROVAL FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES (WILMINGTON)

✓2. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACTIONS
A. March 4, 1995 (Atlanta) B. May 4 & 5, 1995 (Montgomery)

✓3. DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

✓4. TREASURER'S REPORT

✓5. OTHER DISTRICT REPORTS (AS NEEDED)

6. ACCEPT PROGRAM REPORTS

7. NEW BUSINESS:

✓A. Resolution from Christ Covenant Re: Sydney General Conference

✓B. Election of Clergy Representative to Elders Nominating Committee
(Replacing Rev. Bev Stephenson who is leaving GLAD)

✓C. Nominations for Elder
Terms Expiring : Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Rev Elder Don Eastman
Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein

✓8. OTHER BUSINESS

✓9. APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE SITE FOR FALL 1996

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPRING 1997

CLOSING PRAYER Rev. Marianne McPherson , MCC Huntsville

~~Nita Boggs~~
~~Brent Hankes~~
Nancy Wilson
~~Jack Smith~~
Don Eastman
Wilhelm. Hein
~~Jim Nicholson~~
~~Roberta Young~~

Laity Awards
Service
Faithfulness
Longevity

1996
Spring

1995
~~Spring~~ Fall - Asheville
Nov. 17, 18, 19

Fall
Nashville

Metropolitan Community Church of Montgomery

PO Box 603, Montgomery, AL 36101 (334) 279 - 7894

Dear Clergy,

Welcome to M. C. C. Montgomery. We appreciate your dedication in traveling to Montgomery to attend District Conference. We have been praying, and we sincerely hope that you will find God's guidance to "Sing a New Church" in your area when you return home. We would like to remind you that we are involved in a pastoral search at this time. Please pray for us as we begin this journey. If you, or someone you know, is interested in receiving a copy of our information packet, please let us know. Thank you for your prayers.

In Christ,
M. C. C. Montgomery

Christ Covenant
Metropolitan Community Church
778 Rays Road, Suite 100, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

February 20, 1995

The Rev. Jay Neely
District Coordinator
Gulf Lower Atlantic District
1379 Tullie Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Rev. Neely,

Greetings to you with the assurance of grace and peace from God our Source, Jesus Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer.

At the Christ Covenant Board of Directors meeting on Monday, February 20, the planned 1997 General Conference in Sydney, Australia was discussed. Of particular concern to the Board is the estimated minimum cost of $2,500 per person to send our pastor and delegates to the conference. While UFMCC is an international denomination, the fact remains that the majority of our churches are located in North America. The Fellowship's cost of a conference in Australia would severely drain UFMCC resources and the resources of our local churches. Additionally, if fund raisers are utilized to raise the monies for the large church delegations, these efforts will conflict with existing building fund plans. In many cases, the necessary funds to send one pastor and one lay representative would exceed the annual budget of our smaller congregations.

Last year our denomination implemented a plan to raise the salaries of our pastors to the median income of the area in which their churches are located. This plan will be extremely difficult for many of our churches to meet within the next two years. However, most churches have submitted a plan to their District Committee indicating compliance in this area. To add the financial burden that a General Conference in Australia would entail would be extremely insensitive to the fiscal reality of our churches.

Therefore, the Christ Covenant Metropolitan Community Church Board of Directors, acting in the best interest of this congregation, submits the following resolution for consideration at the 1995 Spring District Conference:

> ***We, the Churches of the Gulf Lower Atlantic District, affirm and support all efforts to expand the ministries of UFMCC outside of North America. We especially affirm and support the eight Metropolitan Community Churches on the Australian continent and their enthusiasm for hosting the planned 1997 General Conference in Sydney.***

After prayerful consideration and reflection on the extreme financial drain that the planned General Conference in Australia would have on each of our congregations, we hereby notify the UFMCC General Council that our local church and district representatives cannot attend.

To designate *We strongly encourage the General Council to* ~~*recommend to the*~~ and/or *1995 General Conference an alternate site on the North American continent or in Western Europe. Such a recommendation would be endorsed by the Gulf Lower Atlantic delegations, would insure GLAD representation at the 1997 General Conference, and would show visible support for our ministries outside the USA.*

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Clymore, Clerk
The Board of Directors

changes Re my Telephone Call w/ Daryl Walker
3/1/95

GLAD DISTRICT CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING

NOVEMBER 12, 1994 - WILMINGTON, N.C.

INVOCATION

CALL OF THE ROLL

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ITEM: SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES: Moved by Darst; second by Barreras. Passed with no opposition.

ITEM:REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

August 19 and 20, 1994 (Atlanta):Moved by Stephenson; second by Finney. Passed with no opposition.

November 10 and 11, 1994 (Wilmington):Moved by Darst; second by Mason. Passed with no opposition.

ITEM: DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Moved by Finney; second by Galloway. Accepted with no opposition.

ITEM: TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Dennis Luft. Moved by Finney; second by Darst. Written report with discussion. The District is doing well financially. Report was accepted with no opposition.

ITEM:ASSISTANT DC'S REPORT: Written report presented by Cassi Wylie. Moved by Finney; second by Galloway. Approved with no opposition.

ITEM: PROGRAM REPORTS: The following Program Reports were moved on and accepted together: EXCEL, FFO, DPOC, COL, WOMAN'S SECRETARIAT. Moved by Mason; second by Gilliam. Accepted with no opposition.

ITEM: 1995 BUDGET: Presented by Dennis Luft. Moved by Galloway; second by Wilson. Discussion centered around increasing the amount of hours for the District Coordinator's Administrative Assistant. Presented by M. Moore to increase the hours by 5 hours every quarter to a maximum of 30 hours. This would come out of the church tithe line of the budget. This would change the salary from $4800 to $7000 for the year. $6.00 hourly rate of pay would remain the same. Budget was passed with this change. This was no opposition.

ITEM: BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSAL FROM CHARLESTON REGARDING LOCATION OF FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCES: Proposal was previously mailed to delegates. This was to have all Fall Conferences in Atlanta, Ga. Moved by Mason; second by Voelker. Approval requires a 2/3rds majority. This

proposal did not carry this majority and failed to pass.

ITEM: ELECTION OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
CLERK: Sharon Lindenbaum
TREASURER: Dennis Luft
CLERGY REPRESENTATIVE: Rev. Reid Christensen

All three nominees were re-elected to their positions.

ITEM: ELECTION OF DCRC MEMBER:This position is to fill the remaining 3 year term of Rev. Tam Schult. Moved by Leech; second by Ireland. Rev. Wayne Lindsey elected to the position. Rev. Helene Loper elected as Alternate.

ITEM: ELECTION OF CLERGY REPRESENTATIVE TO ELDER'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Moved by Loper; second by Voelker. Rev. Bev Stephenson elected to position.

ITEM: ELECTION OF ALTERNATE FFO CLERGY REPRESENTATIVE: Moved by Stephenson; second by Voelker. Rev. Glenna Shepherd elected to position.

ITEM: APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE SITE FOR SPRING 1996: Recommendation for Nashville. Moved by Finney; second by Ireland. Passed with one opposed. No one abstained.

ITEM: RECOMMENDATION FOR FALL 1996 CONFERENCE SITE: Recommendations included Atlanta, Ga., Greenville, S.C., and Mobile, Al.

ITEM: NON BINDING RESOLUTION ON CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY: Presented by Lou Clemmons. To be forwarded to General Conference as a Non Binding Resolution. Passed with no opposition.

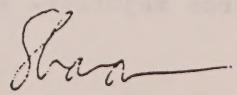
ITEM: DPHR RECOMMENDATION: Presented by J. Kelderman as a recommendation only for meeting time on Fridays in an appropiate time slot. DPOC and Women's Secretariat could also be included in this recommendation. No action required at time time.

ITEM: NON BINDING RESOLUTION FROM THE WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT: Moved by Berreras; second by Gilliam. It was recommended that each church elect a local representative to serve as a contact person between the local church and the District Women's Secretariat to inform the church of program activities as well as represent the church's concerns at the District level. The position would be elected on the same cycle as the Lay Delegate. Non Binding Resolution passed.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITH PRAYER.

Respectfully submitted by :

Sharon Lindenbaum,



Clerk of the District

(Corrected schedule)

"Sing A New Church"

SCHEDULE GLAD CONFERENCE

THE MADISON HOTEL - MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

MAY 5, 6, & 7 , 1995

Thursday, May 4, 1995

District Committee Meeting Noon - 8 PM
MCC Montgomery Conference Committee Meeting Time 5 PM
Conference work team meets at 6 PM

Friday, May 5 , 1995

District Committee Meeting 9 AM - 12 Noon

WORKSHOPS: 1:00 - 2:30 PM

1. The Women's Secretariat Bibb Room

WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS: 2:45 - 4:15 PM

1. Department of the People of Colors Montgomery Room
2. White People Healing Racism Cahaba Room

(The DPOC, WPHR & TWS work times are open to all who are interested in these programs. They will be facilitated by active members of the program.)

Sharing: Pastors, Clergy & Pastoral Leaders 3:30 - 5:30P Bibb Room
Lay Sharing 4:30- 6:00P Montgomery
Student Clergy Sharing 5:00 - 6:00P Cahaba Room

CONFERENCE DINNER 6:15-7:45 PM Ballroom
(PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Speaker: Reverend Elder Darlene Garner, "What Now For UFMCC!"

(Rev. Elder Garner served as a member of the ETFSS & and assisted in the development of the Elders' final report to UFMCC)

WORSHIP SERVICE MAY 5, 1995 8 PM

Speaker: Rev. Frank Scott, Pastor, MCC Asheville, NC

Ballroom

Liturgy of the Quilt - Rev. Christine Oscar, ST. MARY'S MCC**

*Following the service there will be facilities for **12 step** & PWA meetings. Please see Dennis Luft or Cassi Wylie for information and location.*

** During the liturgy of the quilt on Friday night, we remember our sisters and brothers who have gone on to be with God. We invite anyone who wishes to prepare a memorial square to present it for inclusion in the GLAD QUILT. Each square should be 8 inches by 8 inches. For additional information about the district quilt, call St. Mary's MCC 919 272 1606.

Saturday, May 6, 1995
Breakfast 8 - 9:15 AM Ballroom
Welcome: Mr. Jerry Thrash, Chair Montgomery MCC Conference Committee
Speaker: Ms. Laurie Wood, Southern Poverty Law Center

Caucuses: 9:30 - 10:15 AM LAY Montgomery room CLERGY Cahaba room

BUSINESS MEETING 10:30 A - 12:30 P Ballroom

LUNCH BREAK 12:30 M- 2 PM
The following have requested that these groups meet informally during lunch:
SAMARITAN INSTRUCTORS - SPOUSES OF CLERGY, PASTORS AND PASTORAL LEADERS.

Facilities for BROWN BAG meetings for 12-Step program and PWA's will be available. See Dennis Luft or Cassi Wylie for information and location.

NOTE: For those who elect not to attend the morning program or afternoon workshops, there will be suggestions for activities for sight-seeing (walking tour), shopping, etc. See the people in the hospitality suite for details.

WORKSHOPS: 2:15 - 3:45 PM (Workshop descriptions attached)

1.	Stewardship - Making it mean something (Part 1)	Mr. Stan Kimmer Montgomery
2.	Steps To Recover From Bible Abuse	Rev. Dr. Rembert "Buddy" Truluck Cahaba
3.	Doing The Right Thing	Rev. Elder Donald Eastman Bibb

WORKSHOPS: 4 - 5:30 PM

1.	Stewardship Personal & Church Growth (Part 2)	Mr. Stan Kimmer Montgomery
2.	Steps To Recovery From Bible Abuse (Part 2)	Rev. Dr. Rembert "Buddy" Truluck Cahaba
3.	Not Over the Rainbow, But Through It	Ms. Trudie Barreras Bibb

(May 6, 1995 (Cont.)

CHORAL REHEARSAL WILL BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON (Time & Place TBA)

Ballroom

OUR PRAISE IN MUSIC 7:15 - 8 PM

Featuring The Choirs of

First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta

Under the direction of Dr. Tim Tyson, Music Director, First MCC
and Director of Music for this Conference

AND

Covenant Metropolitan Community Church

Under the direction of Ms. Susan Walker, MCM

WORSHIP SERVICE MAY 6, 1995 8 PM

Speaker: Rev. Elder Donald Eastman, 2nd Vice Moderator, UFMCC

Facilities for 12-step and PWA meetings following service will be available. See Cassi Wylie or Dennis Luft for information and location.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP, REPRESENTATIVES OF GLAD/SAMARITAN WILL MEET (PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED) WITH SAMARITAN STUDENTS AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN GLAD/SAMARITAN COURSE WORK, AND/OR THE STUDENT CLERGY PROGRAM.

SPEND SOME SOCIAL TIME FOLLOWING SERVICE, AS MCC MONTGOMERY SPONSORS A DANCE IN THE AUDITORIUM. THERE WILL BE NON-ALCOHOLIC REFRESHMENT AVAILABLE.

Sunday May 7, 1995

Ballroom

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, May 7, 1995 10 AM - 11:30

Speaker: Rev. Elder Darlene Garner

Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia (NOVA)

Children's Sermon

Ms. Sarah Madding, First MCC, Atlanta

District Committee 1 - 3 PM (If Needed)

THE GULF LOWER ATLANTIC DISTRICT
of the Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
(404) 325-1372
1379 Tullie Road • Atlanta, GA 30329
The Rev. Jay Neely, District Coordinator

May 1, 1995

To: The Lay & Clergy Delegates of GLAD

From: Reverend Jay Neely, District Coordinator

With the recognition of "Safe Harbor MCC" a new work in Memphis, Tennessee, the Gulf Lower Atlantic District now has thirty-one worshipping congregations and one special ministry. Clearly, God continues to bless the ministries and outreach of GLAD. Seven of these congregations have over 100 members, with First MCC of Atlanta numbering nearly 250 members. We did cease operation of MCC Hattiesburg, but we hope that in the future we will be able to resume our ministry outreach there.

Of the 31 congregations, only five are without regular Pastoral leadership, and at least two are actively considering potential candidates. Our DCRC this spring will have conducted a record 15 interviews; first licenses, renewal licenses and transfers. GLAD/Samaritan with Facilitator Dr. John Moore has provided necessary course work for women and men in this District pursuing Licensing. Dr. Moore will be relinquishing these responsibilities following this conference, and he has our heartfelt thanks for outstanding job performance.

The growth of this District is deservedly an inspiration to others in our denomination. When asked to what do I attribute this growth, I note the commitment of the women and men who attend our churches, and the Christ "centeredness" of our ministry.

With the Elder's Report (from the efforts of ETFSS), coming before the General Conference this summer in Atlanta, we will witness the continuing maturation and growth of this denomination. We as a District need to consider how we will respond to the greater demands on our ministry. The District Committee has appointed the GLAD TASK FORCE ON DEVELOPMENT. Their charge is as follows:

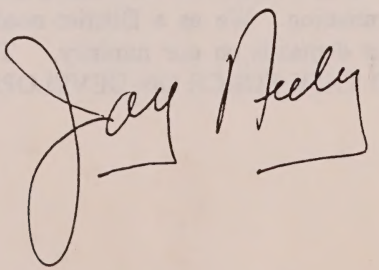
To consider ways and means through which the District can meet the expanding demand for services.

1. Delivery systems to the local church.
2. Increase of resource services to the local church.
3. Maintain the growth momentum in meeting needs of areas and people not currently being served.

This task force has been appointed for a period of eighteen months, and they will report to the District Committee on a periodic basis. The District Committee has appointed as co-chairs of the Task Force, Mr. Dennis Luft, who has served on the GLAD Committee for ten years as our treasurer, and Ms. Mary Moore, who previously served as District Coordinator of GLAD, and is currently Pastor of MCC Charleston. Also, appointed to the Task force: Rev. Wayne Lindsay, Pastor, MCC St. John's, Rev. Glenna Shepherd, Pastor, MCC Christ Covenant, Mr. J-R Finney, Daecon, First MCC and Mr. Keith Mason, MCC Charleston, who formerly served on the District Committee. The Chairs will seek out the many talents of this district to assist in this work, and they will report to the District Committee. The Committee will present a completed report to the District Conference for their acknowledgment and approval where necessary.

On a denominational level, your District Coordinator, who has served on the Corporate and Legal Division of the General Council since 1990, was appointed by Reverend Perry to be the Chair of that Division, with the retirement of Mr. Clarke Friesen.

On a personal note George and I will celebrate our 18th anniversary at the end of this month. I thank you for your continued support and your prayers. The responsibility of this ministry continues to grow, and I continue to offer my fullest efforts to meet the demands. May God continue to bless each of us in our service.



Gulf Lower Alantic District
Department of People of Colors/White People Healing Racism

April 26, 1995

The Spring 1995 Department of People of Colors/White People Healing Racism District Report.

The DPOC/WPHR Budget for 1995 was approved at $ 1,430.00 .

During this years spring conference the DPOC\WPHR will host a workshop on Friday May 5, from 2:45 until 4:15 the workshop will be designed to let the pastors and congregations of the Gulf Lower Alantic District (GLAD) know what types of programs and concerns the DPOC\WPHR have in store for the future growth of this ministry.

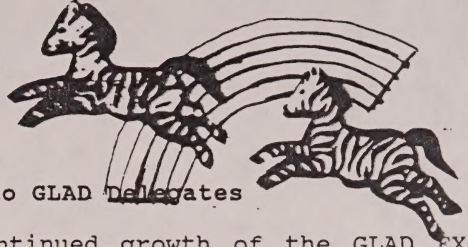
The last six months (since last conference) has been rather uneventful for the DPOC/WPHR. In the last week of December the DPOC sent out letters to all the congregations in our district inviting them to join in the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by lighting the rainbow candles to signify the diversity of all people that Dr. King stood for. In the same letter I asked the pastors or pastoral leaders to submit the name of someone that may serve as a local contact person in each congregation. As of the day of this publication I have received only one set of contact names and one possible WPHR conference to be held. I didn't receive any comments on the Lighting of the Rainbow ceremony or any feedback of any nature.

The DPOC/WPHR is your department and we need you and your participation in order to make our congregations open and inviting to all of Gods children.

Respectfully submitted,
Yours in Christ,

Derrick L. Singletary III
Gulf Lower Alantic District,
Department of People of Colors, Chairperson

cc: Rev. Polly Ireland, Chairperson for White People Healing Racism



EXCEL Report to GLAD Delegates

We praise God for the continued growth of the GLAD EXCEL program, as evidenced by the third wonderful weekend presented by the EXCEL of the Rainbow Zebra team.

Our third very successful weekend was held at Camp Mikell in Toccoa, GA. We graduated twenty-one participants, fifteen of which came from First MCC of Atlanta. We also had two from Tennessee, three from North Carolina, and one from Alabama. Our fourth weekend is planned for September 15-17, 1995. We will return to our previous site at Camp McDowell in Jasper, AL at this time.

The Rainbow Zebra team is presenting a workshop at the District Conference in Montgomery in order to give more detailed information on our progress and plans. In addition, it is traditional for EXCEL teams in the area to host the All-Team gatherings of EXCEL International. These are held each year in the summer, and this year will coincide with the General Conference of UFMCC in Atlanta, GA. So GLAD's Rainbow Zebras will be plannning meals, providing housing, and so on for the representatives of all the EXCEL teams from around the world. Finally, EXCEL of the Rainbow Zebra will join with EXCEL of the Lamb from Jacksonville, FL to present a major workshop at General Conference.

Fundraising plans for District and General Conferences have not yet been finalized. We are hoping to raffle another quilt at General Conference, but due to the close proxity of the two conferences, we felt that raffling two quilts would not be realistic. However, it is under consideration to have tickets for our General Conference Raffle Quilt available at District Conference as well, so that we can offer opportunities to those who will not be able to be present in July.

We have been working busily to expand our team, which will bring closer to reality the prospect of being able to offer more frequent EXCEL retreats as well as being more available to all parts of the District. We are seriously considering a site in North Carolina near MCC of the High Country for our Spring, 1996 weekend. Meanwhile, we encourage all the churches in our District to consider the witness of Covenant MCC of Birmingham and First MCC of Atlanta. Both these churches have had large numbers of participants in the various EXCEL retreats offered so far in GLAD, and both churches have benefitted tremendously in terms of the enthusiasm and service which the EXCEL graduates have provided for the local congregations upon their completion of the weekends.

---Trudie Barreras, Team Facilitator

Trudie Barreras